

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059441

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR

SUBJECT: PARM-77: COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S GUIDANCE

TO AMBASSADOR FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR

1. WE PERCEIVE LITTLE CHANGE IN THE PREVAILING ASSESSMENT
OF LAST YEAR THAT THE U.S. HAS ONLY LIMITED OVERALL
INTERESTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, MADE A
SPECIAL EFFORT OVER THE PAST YEAR TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON
CENTRAL AMERICA AS A SUB-REGION AND ARTICULATE THOSE INTER-
ESTS WE DO HAVE IN A MORE COHERENT FORM. WE HOPE THAT THE
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VARIOUS INPUTS AND INTERCHANGES GENERATED BY THIS RE-
EVALUATION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY WILL BE USEFUL TO
YOU AS THE CURRENT PARM CYCLE DEVELOPS.

2. IN OUR VIEW, FORMULATIONS OF SPECIFIC PRIORITIES SHOULD
TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED FRAMEWORK FOR CENTRAL
AMERICA. IN THIS REGARD, WE BELIEVE THAT GUATEMALA'S LAST

TWO CASP'S HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY WELL RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE OF THEIR CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO REFRAIN FROM OVER-STATING THE CASE.

3. ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, BELIZE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE

ONES WHICH IN OUR VIEW MUST INEVITABLY BE ADDRESSED. DOES THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS (A LA 1975) HEADING TOWARD A GUATEMALAN ELECTION YEAR TEND TO CHANGE APPRECIABLY THE U.S. POSITION OF NEUTRALITY? ON THE OTHER HAND, IF GREAT BRITAIN MAKES A TERRITORIAL CESSION WHICH WE BELIEVE IS REASONABLE, SHOULD WE BE MORE ACTIVE IN PROMOTING ITS ACCEPTANCE BY GUATEMALA?

4. HUMAN RIGHTS WILL COME UNDER INCREASING SCRUTINY OVER THE NEXT YEAR. CONGRESSIONAL AND INTEREST GROUP AND INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOCUS INCREASINGLY ON GUATEMALA, PARTICULARLY IF THE GOG REACTS TO THE EGP IN THE RURAL AREA BY EMPHASIZING THE SORT OF REPRESSIVE MEASURES WHICH HAVE LONG CHARACTERIZED ITS RURAL ANTIGUERRILLA CAMPAIGNS. WILL THE PRESENT PATTERN OF ACTION AGAINST THE EGP CONTINUE? WORSEN? WHAT U.S. MEASURES STAND TO HAVE THE GREATEST EFFECT IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS? WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO HOW WE GO ABOUT MEASURING PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE, AND WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE INCENTIVES WE MIGHT USE. DOES THE EMBASSY HAVE ANY COUNTRY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS?

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5. GUATEMALA RECENTLY REJECTED FUTURE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S ADDRESSING THE LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS THIS MAY HAVE FOR U.S. - GUATEMALAN RELATIONS, BOTH POSITIVE (PERHAPS) AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS.

6. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGE MIGHT BE WORTH SOME ATTENTION, ESPECIALLY THE ROLE FOR FUTURE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTY OF OUR FAVORING LATIN AMERICA ON THE TRADE SIDE. THE POST-EARTHQUAKE GROWTH OUTLOOK MERITS CONSIDERATION. AFTER THE COFFEE BONANZA, WHAT? PETROLEUM PROSPECTS AND THE NICKEL OUTLOOK? DO WE HAVE A GOOD ESTIMATE OF WHAT GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION MAY LOOK LIKE IN THE NEAR TERM AND IS IT OF PARTICULAR CONCERN?
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